

## Arabiyat pays tribute to ties with Russia

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat received at Parliament Saturday a delegation representing the Higher Soviet Council of Russian Federation. Dr. Arabiyat commended relations between Jordan and Russia, saying this relationship extends back to many years. He also reviewed the effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan and the Arab region and called for ending the embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Dr. Arabiyat also dwelt on the plight of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation and Israel's violations of international laws, pointing out to Israel's recent decision to expel 415 Palestinians from their homeland to Lebanon.

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## Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved Saturday a recommendation by Social Development Minister Ammar Mashaqbeh allowing the Union of Voluntary Societies in Tafleah to purchase a piece of land to construct a building and to exempt the union all required fees. The Cabinet also approved a draft agreement on extending a loan worth five million ECUs (European currency units) to the Water Authority of Jordan to use it in Irbid and Ramtha water network project. It also approved Jordan's participation in the meetings of the permanent Arab Information Committee to be held in Cairo Jan. 5-7. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will be headed by Director of Jordan Television Ibrahim Shazada.

## Bashir urges rivals to reconcile with him

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir Friday called once more for a reconciliation with political opponents and affirmed his willingness to negotiate a peaceful solution with armed rebels in southern Sudan. We declare it again and again, the doors of Sudan are open to every one who wants to join in the national building of Sudan, Lieutenant-General Al Bashir said in a speech marking the 37th anniversary of Sudan's independence. "There is no exclusion or isolation for any citizen," he said in a live radio broadcast from Al Obied, capital of Kordofan in western Sudan. He warned Sudanese opponents now in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Britain and the United States, that "the masses will cast you away" if they do not respond to his appeal. Gen.

## Moderate quake rocks south Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake, measuring 4.6 degrees on the Richter scale, jolted Iran's southern Khuzestan province Saturday morning, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The quake occurred at 7:13 a.m. (0543 GMT), causing no casualties or major damage, it said. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the geophysics department at Tehran University recorded the epicentre of the quake 450 kilometres southwest of Tehran. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage.

## Chinese aide negative on British ties

HONG KONG (AP) — A senior Chinese official said he does not foresee any improvement in Sino-British relations unless Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten scraps his planned democratic reforms for the territory, a local television station reported Saturday. Television Broadcasts (TVB) quoted Lu Ping, director of Beijing's Macao and Hong Kong affairs office, as saying in an interview that if "Britain stands tough, then I will have to follow suit."

## Germany to use radar to stop illegals

FRANKFURT (AP) — Germany plans to use radar and infrared electronics to stop illegal entry of refugees, the government said Saturday. German officials estimate that a half-million people sought asylum in 1992. More than 2,100 attacks were reported against foreigners in 1992. Extreme rightists killed 17 people, including Germans and foreigners. Although the government and the opposition announced agreement last month on a plan to slash the number of refugees, the plan may unravel before parliament can act on it. In Bonn, Interior Ministry spokesman Roland Bachmeier confirmed a newspaper report that the government plans to install "modern radar and infrared electronic devices to catch refugees trying to enter the country illegally." The Bild newspaper said the devices were to make up for a shortage of border police to stop illegal asylum-seekers, mostly from Eastern Europe, who have been flooding Germany over its borders with Poland and the new Czech republic.

## Standoff continues over evictees; Husseini rejects Rabin's conditional offer

MARJ AL ZOHOUR (Agencies) — As 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories from Israel made do in between Israel and Lebanon, the two countries remained at an impasse over the return of 10 of them. Israel says were mistakenly expelled.

Palestinian leader Faisal Al Husseini accused Israel of using the 415 as "hostages" by offering to release them early if the uprising was halted.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the 415, could start returning in nine months if Palestinians immediately stopped the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin added that he made the offer on Friday because he knew it was virtually "a pipe dream."

"I believe that this is a sort of taking hostages," Mr. Husseini told Reuters television. "I don't believe that taking hostages will help reach an agreement."

Mr. Husseini is overall head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

The evictees' spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi also rejected the deal, saying the uprising was a response to the occupation.

Israel expelled the Palestinians on Dec. 17 for periods of nine months to two years. But Lebanon refused to take them in, saying it would not be a dumping ground for Israel.

The United Nations Security

Council condemned Israel for the expulsions and demanded it take them back.

Mr. Rabin said his offer was contingent upon a promise by leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Hamas to stop the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If the heads of the PLO and Hamas say, 'we promise peace and quiet, a stop to the infida ... for nine months, I would return them,' Mr. Rabin said Friday.

Dr. Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, said the uprising would end when Israel withdraws from the territories.

"When Israel has done something illegal, it cannot try and find a way out through this kind of bargaining," she said.

Mr. Rabin said in a radio interview broadcast Saturday he was at peace with his decision and confident that Lebanon's refusal to accept them was a "complication" that would be overcome.

The evictees, who Israel alleges are members of Muslim fundamentalist groups, have spent 16 nights in an ill-equipped tent camp stuck between Israeli and Lebanon lines.

Neither country will allow humanitarian aid through its territory, each insisting the evictees are the other's problem.

All but a 16-year-old youth will

(Continued from page 2)

## European border checks disappear

REMICH, Luxembourg (AP) — Mr. Petzinger into Luxembourg, business was humming for Mathias Kael, who sells tobacco, liquor and coffee mostly to Germans attracted by Luxembourg's low value-added tax.

"This post is going to be staffed 24 hours a day, but I tell you, I don't know what we're going to do," Mr. Kael said. "Before they could only take home 300 cigarettes, but from today it's 800."

Allowing merchandise to circulate freely within the EC countries was part of the sweeping reforms that greeted the bloc's 338 million people with the arrival of 1993.

The free circulation of people, however, remains incomplete. Britain, Ireland and Denmark have insisted on maintaining passport controls for travellers arriving from other EC countries.

In anticipation of the change, passport checks at many EC borders, especially in Northern Europe were gradually eliminated in recent months. However, border police everywhere in the EC reserved the right to stop and question anyone at any time.

## Afghan president sworn in, appeals for national unity

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, elected this week by a controversial assembly, was sworn in Saturday for a two-year term and appealed to his opponents to back him.

Mr. Rabbani, in his first public speech since his election on Wednesday, described those drawing battle lines against his Islamic government as heretics, but asked for support.

He said opponents should bow to what he called the "nation's will and decision."

The official Kabul Radio said that the Hail-o-Aqad assembly that elected Mr. Rabbani had also approved the creation of a parliament, set up an army and ordered television and radio to conform to Islamic principles (see page 2).

Five of the nine Mujahideen parties in a fractious leadership council, which oversees the working of the government, had boycotted the Hail-o-Aqad assembly and Mr. Rabbani's election, accusing him of bribing the delegates.

## Shipping, transport sector lost \$547 million

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has suffered a loss of at least \$547 million in revenues from port and cargo handling as well as transport charges since the imposition of the international sanctions against Iraq in August 1990, according to a study conducted by the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

The five-page study, whose calculations are based on 1989 figures, does not include invisible losses suffered by local businesses as a result of delays and cargo diversion ordered by the enforcers of the sanctions patrolling the Red Sea.

The study says that "intransit imports" — the bulk of it for Iraq — passing through the port of Aqaba fell to 1.927 million tonnes in 1992 (excluding December figures) compared with 5.667 million tonnes in 1989 — a decline of 66.01 per cent.

The total decline in such imports since August 1990 is calculated at 10.75 million tonnes and based on an estimate that each tonne of cargo passing through Aqaba used to bring in JD 25 in revenues to the treasury, the loss was a total of JD 263.85 million (\$400 million); JD 59.375 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 115.95 million in 1991 and JD 93.525 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

"Intransit imports" totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 515,572 tonnes in November 1989 and 569,962 tonnes in May 1992.

According to the study, "intransit exports" through Aqaba totalled 1.151 million tonnes in 1989 — an average of 95,900 tonnes a month. The U.N.-imposed embargo against Iraq brought such exports — Iraqi dates, urea, sulphur etc., — to a complete standstill since August 1990.

Based on the same formula of JD 25-a-tonne, the study says that the Kingdom lost JD 67.2 million (\$100 million) as a result of the total halt to Iraqi exports through Aqaba; JD 12 million in the last five months of 1990, JD 28.5 million in 1991, and JD 26.4 million in the first 11 months of 1992.

The United States has so far declined to be involved in disarming warring Somalis, saying its military mission is to secure relief food for the starving from armed looters.

Political analysts say Dr. Ghali's anxiety was heightened by a U.S. plan to start withdrawing



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) welcomes U.S. President George Bush on arrival in Moscow Saturday (AFP photo)

## Bush, Yeltsin sign 'historic' arms reduction accord today

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President George Bush's foreign farewell tour took him Saturday from the depths of despair in Somalia to the heights of superpower summits for the signing of what he called "the most historic arms control agreement ever made."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin greeted Mr. Bush with a handshake on the bitter cold day as a light snow swirled at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. They spoke briefly with each other before departing in a motorcade.

It was the fourth and final summit for Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin, as well as Mr. Bush's 25th and likely last trip abroad.

Mr. Bush, arriving from Somalia where he viewed efforts by U.S. troops to feed a starving population (see page 2), was received in the Russian capital with his wife, Barbara. She arrived on a separate flight from the United States, along with James Baker, Mr. Bush's chief of staff.

When Mr. Baker was secretary of state for Mr. Bush, he carried out many of the negotiations that led to the landmark START II nuclear weapons reduction agreement.

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger arrived in Moscow aboard a third flight.

Mr. Bush planned to stop in Paris for a chat with President Francois Mitterrand on his way back to Washington Sunday.

The summit, switched to Moscow because of bad weather in the planned Black Sea venue of Sochi, caps diplomatic activity that culminated last Tuesday in the on the treaty text.

Mr. Yeltsin is in need of a political boost after suffering a major defeat at the hands of his conservative parliament last month.

Forced to sacrifice radical acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar in December under pressure from the Congress of People's Deputies, Mr. Yeltsin has described 1992 as the most difficult year of his life. This year is likely to be just as tough.

Besides signing START-II, the two leaders will hold talks on bilateral and regional issues.

Most significantly, it scraps the most destabilising weapons on both sides — land-based multiple-warhead missiles such as the Russian SS-18, an apocalyptic weapon capable of travelling 11,000 kilometres to strike the American mainland.

"It is brilliant news — that is how experts assess the meeting," Russian Television said, referring to the summit.

But the event otherwise aroused little excitement in Russian media, which were more concerned with new year festivities and economic hardship throughout the former Soviet Union.

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After U.S. and Russian negotiators finalised the document in Geneva on Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin called START II the "document of the century" and the "most important achievement in relations between our two countries."

START-II, which supplements an earlier treaty signed by Mr. Bush and then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in July 1991, sets a ceiling of 3,500 nuclear warheads on each side by 2003 at the latest — or the year 2000, if Russia's economy can manage it.

It eliminates about 15,000 of the combined 21,000 warheads in the Russian and U.S. arsenals and rolls back two decades of the superpower arms race.

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## Iraq: OPEC decisions are no longer binding

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's oil minister said in remarks published Saturday that his country would reject Organisation of Petroleum Exporting (OPEC) decisions once its embargoed oil found its way to international markets.

"Iraq rejects OPEC decisions on prices, production ceilings and quotas," Usama Al Hiti told the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah.

Before the Gulf crisis, Iraq was OPEC's second largest producer after Saudi Arabia, with an output quota of 3.1 million barrels per day. Sanctions imposed on its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have blocked exports.

The Security Council has prevented previous attempts to get all of Somalia's feuding factions to the conference table.

The multinational force has in the last month fanned out into Somalia's countryside to protect famine relief supplies in the U.N.-backed Operation Restore Hope.

Fighting and famine have killed at least 400,000 people and turned one in six Somalis into a refugee since Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi turned on each other after chasing out Mr. Siad Barre.

The United States has so far declined to be involved in disarming warring Somalis, saying its military mission is to secure relief food for the starving from armed looters.

Political analysts say Dr. Ghali's anxiety was heightened by a U.S. plan to start withdrawing

next quarter to 24.9 barrels per day.

Interest rates raised

The Central Bank of Iraq has raised interest rates by between one and five per cent to draw excess money from circulation and support the dinar, Baghdad newspapers said Saturday.

The new rates, effective from Jan. 1, 1993, are part of a government package meant to fight rampant inflation.

No official figures are available on inflation but the prices of some essential commodities have surged almost 100-fold since the United Nations imposed sanctions.

Interest on six-month deposits has jumped to 11 per cent from nine and on long-term deposits to 12 per cent from 10.

The central bank now offers 15 per cent interest on two-year fixed deposits. Previously the highest possible rate for any deposit was 10 per cent.

Mr. Hiti even hinted that Iraq might reconsider its membership of OPEC. "Iraq is reviewing its oil policies within OPEC in line with international developments and the growth of new international blocks."

Mr. Hiti said Iraq was reacting to "the failure of the organisation to embody the interests of producing countries and the ineffectiveness of its decisions."

The minister predicted last month that the oil producers' cartel would eventually collapse and that not all members would abide by their output agreement.

OPEC agreed in its latest meeting to cut total production in the



Tel. 698 131  
Fax. 673 312

## Kabul decides to form parliament, regular army

ISLAMABAD (R) — An assembly of national delegates in Afghanistan has approved the creation of a parliament, set up a regular army and ordered television and radio to conform to Islamic principles, state-run Kabul Radio said.

The Hal-o-Aqad assembly, which met Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Maulvi Mohammad Shah Fazeli, approved a parliament formed from among 20 per cent of its 1,335 members elected from across Afghanistan, said the radio monitored in Islamabad Saturday.

The Hal-o-Aqad Wednesday elected Interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani as head of state for the next two years in a move attacked by several of the nine Mujahedeen leaders who make up the fractious leadership council.

The leadership council was set up to fill the political vacuum after the former communist government collapsed last April. Five out of the nine parties boycotted the Hal-o-Aqad, accusing Mr. Rabbani of influencing the delegates.

The Hal-o-Aqad decided to establish a regular army, which should be set up "mostly from the Mujahedeen" groups, the radio said. It gave no details.

Various factions control the different regions of Afghanistan, and Kabul is divided into a patchwork of zones of control where rival Mujahedeen fighters clash

regularly.

The assembly ordered that all employees of the eight-month-old Islamic coalition government should be Muslim and demanded that all television and radio programmes be made in accordance with Islamic law.

Women have already been banned from reading the news on television.

The radio said no non-Muslim organisations would be allowed to run activities in the country. Gulnuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami party, said this week he would regard the opening of the assembly as a declaration of war.

However Kabul radio said Mr. Rabbani had received assurances of support Friday from Younis Khalis, leader of the Hizb-i-Islami faction of Hezb-i-Islami.

Mr. Khalis had earlier refused to accept Mr. Rabbani's election saying it was against the wishes of the nation and the preaching of Islam.

Mr. Rabbani also met a group of army generals led by General Momin who represented General Rasheed Dostum, head of the former communist militia, the radio said.

"On behalf of the generals, General Momin congratulated Rabbani and promised to work within the Afghan army, cooperate with other forces in the country and obey the orders of the Defence Ministry and Rabbani himself," the radio said.

## Five gendarmes slain in arms heist in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Bandits cut the throats of five gendarmes and killed them in a bloody attack on a police station to steal weapons, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The daily newspaper Al Watan did not identify the bandits, but suspicion fell on the armed Islamic groups that have killed more than 250 police officers and soldiers in the past year.

The attack Friday at Laghouat, 400 kilometres south of Algiers, ranks among the bloodiest in the Muslim fundamentalist campaign to destabilise the country.

Al Watan, which has a good reputation for accuracy, reported that the five Gendarmes apparently surprised by the assailants, who made off with four machine-pistols and an assault rifle.

The information was not immediately confirmed by officials. As is their custom, the Islamic groups made no claim of responsibility.

The Islamic bands have waged a deadly underground campaign against the state since a military coup a year ago that blocked the Islamic Salvation Front from winning parliamentary elections.

Defence lawyers meanwhile walked out Friday of the military trial of 71 soldiers accused of conspiring with the fundamentalists to topple the government, a crime that carries the death penalty.

The 13 civilian lawyers claimed that the tribunal was prejudiced that was committing "flagrant violations" of civil rights.



An American Marine buys bananas from a passing vendor in central Mogadishu (AFP photo)

## Bush bids emotional farewell to U.S. troops in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — President George Bush made a New Year's Day visit on Friday to a Somali orphanage where laughter has replaced the silence of death and made an emotional farewell to U.S. troops before he leaves the White House.

Mr. Bush thanked U.S. troops for their relief efforts in Somalia but he warned that he and President-elect Bill Clinton agreed America should not act as the world's watchdog.

Asked by a young U.S. Marine if the United States would take similar action in the future, Mr. Bush shook his head.

"I would have to say to you it would be a special case because of the enormity of it," he said. Speaking of Somalia, he referred to "the enormity of the starvation and the destruction and the violence."

The American response to the plight of Somalia does not mean Americans will go every time somebody is hurting, he said. "We simply can't do that. We don't have the money."

During the unusual question-and-answer session with U.S. Marines in Baidoa, which had been called the "city of death" before Americans arrived to safeguard relief supplies, Bush was more publicly candid than usual.

"This one is a new one. It's a humanitarian mission...and I think you've done a superb job," Mr. Bush, wearing a desert camouflage cap and tunic, earlier

told 1,500 cheering U.S. and other foreign troops in the heat at Mogadishu airport.

The brief address, Mr. Bush's last set-piece appearance on his two-day visit to the forces he sent to Somalia, was a swansong as commander-in-chief of the U.S. military before Mr. Clinton takes over on Jan. 20.

Mr. Bush spent a second night on the assault ship USS Tripoli before flying early Saturday to Moscow to sign a treaty with Russian President Boris Yeltsin that slashes their countries' long-range nuclear arsenals.

U.S. and French troops thrust into Baidoa, the "city of death" at the epicentre of Somalia's famine, on Dec. 16 one week after the first U.S. Marines poured ashore in Mogadishu to launch the multinational relief effort.

Waving Somalis in rags lined the decrepit streets from Baidoa airfield chanting "President Bush, President Bush" on Friday as Mr. Bush passed in a light armoured vehicle on his way to an orphanage for 725 victims of Somalia's war and hunger.

Children, brought back to life from the brink of starvation, gave Mr. Bush a garland of purple hibiscus flowers and welcomed him with songs for his 30-minute tour of the simple concrete compound.

"Welcome President Bush at Baidoa orphanage centre and a happy New Year," said a hand-

made banner at the entrance.

The death rate at the orphanage was fallen to about one child a week from more than 10 a day.

But Mr. Bush saw the scourge of a famine that has killed 300,000 Somalis when he visited an intensive-care room off the main yard where about one dozen children, some with shrivelled legs and listless eyes, sat on the floor being helped to eat.

"It's very emotional, I don't know how to respond," said Mr. Bush, a devoted grandfather.

Mr. Bush, who sent more than 100,000 U.S. troops to fight in the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq, has committed up to 25,000 servicemen and women to the operation in Somalia.

Mr. Clinton had "been very supportive of my decision," and "I would see no way that he would precipitously end what is essentially this beautiful mission," he said.

"I think he shares my view that the United States cannot do all of this," he added.

Mr. Bush vented his ire on Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, his long-time foe. "He's a madman who brutalizes people," he told a Marine.

White House aides acknowledged that Mr. Bush feels frustration with the fact that President Saddam will remain in power after the president leaves office.

## Discussion of disarmament haunts Somalia

By Tina Susman  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Disarmament and what it might mean — is a subject with no easy answer — is on everyone's lips as relief workers, U.S. troops and Somalis argue its merits.

To Gemmo Lodesani, deputy director of operations for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), lack of disarmament means dodging Mogadishu's killers, thieves and hijackers unless he pays for the protection of armed Somali guards.

To many Somalis, it means stashing guns under car seats or in closets and watching the gun prices plummet as foreign troops consider eliminating the rule of the freelance gun.

To the U.S.-led military coalition trying to make the country safe for famine relief work, it means seizing the gun-mounted pickups — known as technicals — and all other weapons that stand in their way.

On Tuesday, the coalition flooded Mogadishu with leaflets warning that heavily-armed vehicles, automatic rifles, machine guns and mortars "will not be tolerated." It said anyone pointing a gun at a member of the force "will be shot."

"Our goal is to get the gunmen off the streets. In areas we control, any open display of weapons we'll ... treat as hostile," U.S. Marine Colonel Fred Peck told reporters Monday.

But there are exceptions.

A Marine convoy heading to Mogadishu from Baidoa, 190 kilometres west, this week passed several technicals along the highway and did not stop them. Col. Peck said it would have slowed the convoy too much to seize every technical spotted.

At the same time in the capital, Marines were seizing vehicles with empty gun mounts. Col. Peck said unarmed technicals are targets because they can easily be converted back into lethal weapons.

Since the start of Operation Restore Hope on Dec. 9 U.S. officials have acknowledged the futility of trying to demilitarise a country steeped in guns with neither police nor a government.

U.S. special envoy Robert Oakey called disarmament "naive," and General Robert Johnston, commander of the U.S. forces in Somalia, suggested some well-disciplined militias could be integrated into a regular regular force.

The military says the policy from the start has been to secure famine relief areas, not to act as a police force or to remove every weapon.

"I'm scared now — more scared than before," said Mr.



A U.S. Marine patrols as Somalis wait in line for jobs in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Relief agencies say there is no question the foreign military presence has enhanced their ability to distribute food, but the problem of protecting Somalia once the visible weapons are seized is being dodged.

They also complain that aid workers themselves are more vulnerable to attack because they can no longer travel with a long knife who stole his watch and wallet as the gunmen drove off in his car.

"Somebody's got to confront the issue," said Cynthia Oster-

Lodesani, who was ambushed by two men firing automatic weapons Sunday night as he drove unarmed away from his office.

Mr. Lodesani scrambled out of the Land Cruiser and fled into a nearby tea shop, where he was confronted by a man with a long knife who stole his watch and quickly lost a vehicle to armed hijackers. On Monday, another Care vehicle was hijacked and a Somali guard inside was shot dead.

man, a spokeswoman for Care International. "If guns are under the floorboards, in the closet, and under the seats, the risk remains that this place will fall back into anarchy."

Like most aid agencies, Care stopped travelling with armed guards after the Marines' arrival and quickly lost a vehicle to armed hijackers. On Monday, another Care vehicle was hijacked and a Somali guard inside was shot dead.

## CHURCHES

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:30 ..... Rovas d'enfants  
17:30 ..... La Plac de l'Aspirant  
19:00 ..... News French  
19:15 ..... Le Journal de L'histoire  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
21:10 ..... Family Matters  
22:00 ..... National Geographic  
22:30 ..... News in English  
22:50 ..... Mini Series: "Who Killed Sir Harry Oakes?"

## PRAYER TIMES

05:30 ..... Fajr  
11:30 ..... (Sundays) Dhuhr  
14:22 ..... Asr  
16:46 ..... Magrib  
18:00 ..... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swifts  
St. 810740  
Archdeacon of God Church, Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

## TERRESTRIAL

Min./Max. temp.  
Ananias ..... 3/11  
Aqaba ..... 6/20  
Deserts ..... 2/12  
Jordan Valley ..... 8/16

Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

IRBIDS ..... 771957

Alquds pharmacy ..... 888681

Alquds pharmacy ..... 771957

Alquds pharmacy ..... 661101

Alquds pharmacy ..... 772111

Alquds pharmacy ..... 774111

Alquds pharmacy ..... 680100

Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

## Baath Party to appeal for legalisation

By Marjan M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Baath Arab Socialist Party (BASP) has appealed against the Ministry of Interior's decision to deny the group legal status. They have taken their case to the Higher Court to Justice and should have an answer within two months, said the party leader Ahmad Najdawi Saturday.

BASP is the second of three parties to be denied legal status in Jordan. The two others, the Jordanian Communist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) have already appealed the Ministry's decision.

Mr. Najdawi told the Jordan Times that the Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shabani, will be informed by the Higher Court of Justice that the appeal was made and he will then have two weeks to study the petition. The court has six weeks to hold a hearing and make its decision. According to Mr. Najdawi: "the party has a good chance of becoming legal

because the justice system is fair."

The Communist Party and the JPDP, both leftist party's much like the BASP, filed an appeal within one week of the ministry's decision.

Asked why the BASP waited three weeks to appeal the Ministry of Interior's decision, Mr. Najdawi said he hoped that the minister would reconsider his decision and avoid the hassles of a court hearing. "I hoped he would change his adamant attitude," said Mr. Najdawi.

Five of the eleven parties that have sought legal status have so far been legalised and three have been denied status.

The twelfth group, the Unionist Arab Democratic Party (UADP) is expected to apply for party status early this week. The parties that have been legalised so far are, the Jordan National Alliance, the Popular Union Party, Al Ahd Party, the Islamic Action Front and the Al Mustakbal Party.

## Icelandic minister expected in Amman

By Elias Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iceland's Minister of Communications Halldor Blöndal will be arriving in Amman on January 6 at the head of a delegation for a formal visit at the invitation of Minister of Tourism Yousif Hikmat.

Mr. Blöndal, who is expected to discuss tourism along with other matters with Jordanian government officials during the four-day visit, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

Ministry Secretary General Naji Atallah told the Jordan Times that the question of tariffs for travel between the two countries will be one of the main topics on the agenda. At present, no direct flights exist between Iceland and Jordan and travellers have to arrange for their trips between the two countries through a third country, said Mr. Atallah. A potential agreement between Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Iceland Air is expected during the visit, according to Mr. Atallah, who said that this will boost tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

According to the Icelandic consul in Jordan, Mr. Blöndal will be accompanied on the visit here by his wife, the vice president of Iceland Air, the director of tourism, the secretary general of the ministry of communications and other assistants. The meetings will cover tourism and travel as well as cultural matters, said the Consul Stefania Khalifa, who added that Jordan established diplomatic ties with Iceland in 1990 and is the only country in the Middle East with diplomatic ties with Iceland.

Mr. Khalifa said that the establishment of relations followed a visit to Iceland by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989. She said that the president of Iceland has received invitations from the King and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal to visit Jordan and the visit could take place any time during his present term in office.

According to Mr. Atallah, tourists from Iceland and the other Scandinavian countries declined this year due to the economic recession affecting Europe. But he hoped that tourist groups will resume their trips to Jordan in the coming year.

## Regulations to be enforced in construction sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality and the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) Saturday announced an agreement on measures to be followed in the construction sector designed to prevent violations of the building codes.

The new instructions which concern concrete work, should be applied in all projects regardless of their volume and area. Under the new regulations, the engineering office which supervises the construction work is to be held responsible for implementing the regulations on the site of the project while the Amman municipality's task will be confined to technical supervision.

## Tawjiji exams begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 73,342 students will Sunday sit for the first session of the Tawjiji examination as prepared by the Ministry of Education for public and private schools in Jordan.

Ministry sources said that 975 have been prepared for the examination session which will last until January 14. The ministry said that marking papers and assessing the results of the examinations will begin immediately after each session and results should appear before the end of February.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

Caricature exhibition by cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Art Gallery.

### FILM

Film entitled "Dirty Harry", at the American Centre — 5 pm.



PREMIER MEETS EX-ALGERIAN PRESIDENT: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at the Prime Ministry Saturday former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella who is on a private visit to Jordan. The meeting reviewed the situation in the Arab World and the latest developments in the Middle East region.

## Irbid radio goes on air

IRBID (J.T.) — Local radio station went on the air Friday with broadcasts covering local affairs and issues of common concern to the public.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, commenting on the start of the broadcasts, urged the radio station to serve as a platform for people to express their views concerning public matters, and also to give officials the chance to reply to complaints.

The new station in Irbid ought to allocate time for discussion of development projects in the Irbid Governorate, he said. He added that the new radio station would reflect the real concerns and official views of the public and the officials alike.

## University professor urges Arabs to reject violence

AMMAN (J.T.) — A prominent Egyptian university professor and former minister of information has urged Islamic movements of the Arab World to abandon the path of violence and embark on a new course of action to achieve their goal.

Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu Majd, a Cairo University professor said that no, one, can listen to the Muslims if they only demolish or destroy. "The hands that do not plant food or manufacture goods would never represent a pioneering work," he said in a lecture entitled, "Towards a new Islamic trend," delivered at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman.

Dr. Abu Majd said that the Islamic movements should give attention to the future of the Islamic community and therefore should avert any destruction methods which were adopted in the pre-Islamic era of Arab history.

A joint statement issued by the two bodies said that more than 90 percent for concrete laying could be issued if the projects are big and consist of different sections. Furthermore, the statement said, violators will risk having buildings pulled down.

Should the municipality find buildings to have been erected without licences and permits concerning concrete, the JEA will be alerted. It said that the JEA can later follow up on such violations and take the proper actions.

Thousands gather in support of evictees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thousands of people gathered in and around the Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman Friday to attend a public rally organised to show solidarity with the 415 Palestinians who were exiled from their homes in the occupied territories to south Lebanon more than two weeks ago.

The Lower House of Parliament member Mansour Seifeddin Murad delivered a speech at the rally warning against the Israeli measure. He said that it proves beyond doubt that Israel wants to expel Palestinians to create more room for new immigrants.

"Despite all of this, our (Arab) governments and leaderships are still talking about peace, while the enemy is still occupying our land, and evicting our people and preparing its troops for new fights," he said. The deputy criticised Arab governments for their continued compromises in the peace process despite the fact that such compromises affect Arab national interests. "They offer compromises after compromises, recognise the enemy, accept opening their markets and accept all its demands although these compromises harm our pan-Arab sovereignty and interests," he said.

Deputy Murad went on to call for mobilising masses in Jordan, Palestine, the Arab world and the Islamic countries to be able to confront "the camp of infidelity represented in the main enemy of American imperialism, the Zionist entity and the international Zionist movement." He said that these forces were planning to decimate the Arab nation and steal its fortunes and he ruled out any possibility of having peace as long as Israel is still occupying



Thousands gather in solidarity downtown Amman, Friday

Arab lands, and as long as the U.S. is supporting Israel.

Deputy Hamnam Saeed who heads the Islamic Committee for Supporting the Palestinian People said in an address that the deportees explicitly demonstrate how people merge with their land to form one entity. "Human beings are not linked to their land with an identity card, a passport or material interests; was it the case, the deportees would have found a substitute for Palestine," he said. "They are attached to their land because it is the holy land, the land of faith and belief," he added.

Secretary General of the Arab Doctors Federation Hassan

## House to debate draft budget for 1993

Finance committee focuses attention on alleged mishandling of funds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday debate the fiscal budget for 1993 and will hear accusations from the Financial Committee accusing a number of ministers of misappropriating public funds.

A report to be reviewed by the Lower House in Sunday's session stated that a number of cabinet ministers are dispensing with public funds with which they had been entrusted in a manner that would serve their election purposes. Most of these ministers are also Parliament members.

The report which was quoted Saturday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, called for immediate examination into these cases which it described as a "dangerous phenomenon."

The committee's report contained a number of points related to inefficiencies in public administration work in Jordan. The committee said that it had noticed varying degrees of negligence and administrative malpractices in government offices' long-winded procedures, the shortage of skilled staff, tight centralisation, and favouritism were said to be behind the malpractices. The committee said that many offices have failed to put the right person in the right position.

Other aspects of the report included a recommendation that the government ought to raise by JD 20 a month the salaries of the armed and security forces, as well as the civil servants. It also called for the improvement of living conditions and extra payments to retired officers and civil servants. The financial committee has also

completed its examination of the fiscal budget draft which was presented to the House by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh last month. Mr. Jardaneh's report outlined the government's economic and financial performance in the past year and showed that the government has succeeded in covering current expenditure with domestic revenue for the first time in Jordan's history.

Earlier the House's judiciary committee under the chairmanship of Salem Al Zoubi who said that the committee endorsed a draft amendment to the telecommunications law. The committee also studied and recommended to the House the endorsement of the draft law on the general farmers federation.

In a separate development, the Upper House of Parliament held

## Petra news agency plans work stoppage for more pay

By Elias Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (Petra) — Two British members of parliament discussed Middle East issues with Jordanian Parliament members Saturday and expressed an understanding of the Jordanian position and the country's important role towards re-establishing stability and peace in the region.

The two members of the House of Commons Robert Adey and John Ralbore first met with the Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Taher Al Masri who urged Britain to exercise pressure on Israel to respect U.N. Security Council resolutions in general and to implement Resolution 799 which orders Israel to repatriate the 400 Palestinian evictees.

Mr. Adey called on Europe and Britain to take into consideration their historic ties and common interests with the Arab World and help ensure the establishment of peace in the region. The two British MPs later called on Ahmad Obeidat, member of the Upper House of Parliament and Senate members to discuss the situation in the region and developments in the Palestine problem.

Mr. Obeidat described Israel's deportation of the 400 Palestinians to Lebanon as serving a deadly blow to the whole peace process. He urged Europe to force Israel to implement Security Council resolutions to ensure peace in the Middle East.

The British MPs voted their hope that continued Euro-Arab dialogue will lead to further European understanding of the Arab causes and would help establish the aspired peace.

The two British parliamentarians who arrived in Amman before noon Saturday on a several day visit to Jordan are expected to discuss with government officials issues of common concern to Britain and Jordan as well as visiting touristic sites.

Khaled Mahadin was reported to have called the JPA board during the emergency meeting assuring them that the government was concerned about the demand and would discuss and endorse the allowance at its regular sessions. However, the JPA board urged Petra staff to carry on the work stoppage to support their demand and urge the government to speed up its decision.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif, on the other hand, said that the employees of radio and television stations carry out work considered more difficult than that carried out by the Petra staff, especially during severe weather conditions. The minister said that the Petra staff should submit a request to the government for a raise and the government will examine their case in due time.

Petra staff members told the Jordan Times that the Cabinet was due to discuss their request at its regular sessions either Saturday or Tuesday evening. They said that the decision to stop work for six hours was almost unanimous, although a number of the staff described the decision as a bit hasty, and called for more time for the government to examine the situation.

## ICA holds annual celebration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour attended last week at Sahab Industrial City the annual celebration of the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company (ICA) and the reopening of a detergents factory.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company Mohammad Abu Hassan delivered an address in which he said the detergents factory produced 17,000 tonnes of detergent in

1992 compared to 7,000 tonnes in 1989. Production capacity is expected to rise to 30,000 in 1993, he said.

ICA includes seven factories manufacturing detergents, soap, perfumes, food supplies, paints and pastes.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the company's exports to Arab and foreign markets have risen from about JD 1.9 million in 1989 to JD 11 million in 1991. In 1992, the company will become the largest manufacturer of detergents in the Arab World after the conclusion of a new project in 1993.

## VACANCY

The British Council is seeking to employ an outstanding individual for its key post of

### OFFICE MANAGER

(male or female)

The postholder will be responsible for the effective and efficient management of the financial and administrative functions of the office, including the management of ten members of staff. Candidates should be educated to degree level or above, and have at least ten years experience in a managerial position. They should be able to demonstrate the following:

Fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic. Experience of managing budgets and preparation of accounts.

Interpersonal skills and initiative, with ability to manage and motivate staff.

Computer skills (Lotus 1-2-3 and financial packages) are highly desirable.

A full job description for the post is available for collection from the British Council, Rainbow Street, off First Circle.

Candidates fulfilling the above conditions should submit their CV and a hand-written covering letter to the Director, British Council, P.O. Box 634, Amman, no later than January 20, 1993.

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## Jordan Times

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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## Compliance needs will

AS 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories prepare to spend their 18th night in freezing weather conditions in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon, Israel continues to make a mockery of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

To the dismay, yet in no way to the surprise, of those familiar with its belligerent policies in the region, Israel has proposed a solution that it knew would be rejected not only by Palestinians and Arabs but also by all countries and organisations who uphold international law and respect human rights.

Stop the intifada and the expelled Palestinians will be allowed to their homes in nine months, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's unacceptable proposal said. He knew perfectly well though that the intifada is an expression of a people's rejection of occupation. Furthermore, Rabin knows Palestinian struggle will not stop before his tanks and special killing squads end their colonisation of Palestinian land.

Practically speaking, the Israeli proposal is unacceptable, first, because it is an ugly form of political blackmail and, second, because it compares a legitimate struggle for independence and dignity to a brutal act of denying people their basic right to safe and dignified life in the land of their ancestors. Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians was a clear violation of the rights of people living under occupation as stipulated by the Fourth Geneva Convention. Rabin's refusal to redress this grave wrong is therefore yet another example of his government's defiance of and disregard to international legality.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has said he will ask the Security Council to take the necessary measures as "it sees fit" to end the plight of the evictees when his special envoy to the area told him of the failure of his mission.

Necessary measures that the Security Council should "see fit" must mean working out a mechanism that would force Israel to abide by U.N. resolutions. The issue is crystal clear: The Security Council issued Resolution 799 demanding the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homeland; Israel has rejected the decision; and, as has been the case with Iraq, Yugoslavia and Libya after the birth of the "new world order," the "fit" action should allow for punitive measures against Israel.

Israel has too often rejected U.N. resolutions because it counted on the support of its allies, mainly the U.S. It would naturally continue to reject 799 and all other future resolutions unless the U.N. gives it reason to believe that this time around it means business and will force compliance with those resolutions.

Under the "new world order," this should not be too much to expect from the United Nations, or is it?

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Saturday said that the Israeli leaders have been resisting Arab countries' endeavours to establish a permanent and just peace in the region, noting that the deportation of Arab citizens to Lebanon was just another instance of the obstacles that the Jewish state is placing in the path of peace. The Israeli media is now blaming the Arabs and the intifada for the failure of the peace process, but it is saying nothing about Israel's organised acts of terrorism and intimidations against the Palestinians and the stubbornness of the Israeli negotiators and the Israeli government at the peace process that rendered the talks futile so far, added the daily. The paper said that the deportation of the Palestinians from their homeland was perhaps the straw that caused the break of the talks although previous Israeli actions and atrocities were also intended to achieve the same goal. The Israeli media can by no means absolve the Israeli leadership of the crime it has committed and can by no means change the facts on the ground and brighten the Israeli image before the world, said the paper. The daily added that shedding crocodile tears over the failure of the Middle East process can by no means improve the situation and help the talks succeed. Only when Israel stops its atrocities, repatriates the deportees, accepts the U.N. resolutions and shows willingness to implement Security Council resolutions on Palestine can the whole region enjoy peace, said the paper. It said that as long as Israel continues to abort Arab countries' bids to achieve the aspired just peace, the cycle of violence is bound to continue and peace will remain absent.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the border dispute between Egypt and Sudan. Any Arab citizen can only express regret and deep pain over the news that Egyptian troops have invaded Sudanese territory, violating all principles and laws and further causing damage to inter-Arab relations, said the daily. Egypt's unexpected step against Sudan at this moment can only give justification to suspicion and anxiety, which has long haunted the Arab masses in the two countries who have feared a confrontation, said the daily. Egypt should have learnt the lesson from the Gulf crisis that only through dialogue and a peaceful negotiation can an amicable settlement be reached between neighbours and not through confrontation that tends to cause further divisions among the Arab states. The paper said that while Cairo is more than any other Arab capital enthusiastic about ending the conflict with the Israeli enemy by peaceful means, it is trying to settle its dispute with Sudan by force, something which is detrimental to Arab national interests.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Salaries hiking — why not?

By Dr. Fahed Al Fane

Raising the scale of salaries is no doubt a good thing in itself. It means raising the standard of living of all salaried people, starting with the public sector which employs around 40 per cent of the labour force in the country, followed by the private sector which employs 50 per cent of the labour force, assuming that 10 per cent of the manpower are self-employed.

However, there are at least three problems facing such a proposition:

The first problem is that the budget for 1993 still has a net deficit of JD48 million, plus the value of installments payable on internal and external indebtedness, amounting to JD311 million, plus interest and principal due on the indebtedness of the "armament fund" which is dealt with off-budget and exceeds JD200 million in 1993. Around JD290 million of the above sizeable deficit will be covered by fresh external borrowing, amounting to JD290 million, and internal borrowing, amounting to JD70 million. Any increase of salaries and wages, beyond the usual annual increments allowed for in the budget, will be added to the above deficit.

The second problem is that what we call raising the standard of living by raising salaries is nothing but raising consumption without a corresponding increase in production, and raising imports and

widening the deficit in the trade balance and the balance of payments. It was determined that each JD100 of extra cash income is bound to cause JD50 of extra imports.

The third problem is that the government practically adopted the policy of creating more jobs, even at the expense of inflating the public administration apparatus. The government is planning an increase in civil service staff by six thousand in 1993. The logic behind this policy is that creating jobs for the unemployed has priority over improving the income of those who already have jobs, especially when sufficient funds to satisfy both desirable objectives are unfortunately not available.

Therefore, the members of Parliament who called for hiking salaries by JD20 each in this election year, may gain some popularity. They will raise the expectations of the employees which, most likely, will end up in disappointment, but they may be rightly accused of political opportunism. They are pressuring the government to make difficult decisions that will definitely increase the deficit in the budget, cause more consumption and importation, and reduce the capacity to create new jobs. Those Parliament members therefore are required to support their demands by specific sources of new financing, or ways and means to reduce expenses, that are practical,

acceptable, and make sense.

We are entitled to be told whether the Parliament members, especially the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, want the government to step up external borrowing or to order the central bank to print more inflationary money to finance the treasury or if they prefer to hike taxes and fees. There is no other way to raise around JD100 million to finance their suggestion which entails more recurring public expenditure.

Until such time when the Finance Committee comes up with a specific reply, it would not be fair to report to the public that the Parliament, the Brotherhood bloc or the Finance Committee demanded an increase in the salaries of civil personnel. It should be reported to the people that the above politicians are asking for more deficit in the budget, more consumption, more imports, less new jobs, and a setback in the march towards self-sufficiency and financial independence. In other words, they are acting irresponsibly.

In this democratic environment there is no room for political opportunism. Those who make popular demands should call a spade a spade, otherwise we shall translate their code language as we have done above. Popularity is not that cheap and easy to come by any more. It takes responsibility, creativity, and courage.

## UNRWA in its 42nd year

By Pascal B. Karmy

The commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) submitted his annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on Nov. 2, 1992. His report covered UNRWA's activities during the period July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992.

UNRWA was established as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations by virtue of General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of Dec. 8, 1949. Its field of operations covers Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNRWA was intended to be temporary, as it was hoped that the Palestinian problem would soon be solved and the Palestinian refugees would be allowed to return home, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) of Dec. 11, 1948. It seems though, that the temporary nature of the agency has confirmed the saying that the temporary endures; and thus the agency's life has been extended for two or three years at a time up to 1993, so far. The General Assembly has this year extended the agency's mandate for another three years, effective as of June 1, 1993, but, as usual, without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph II of General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) mentioned above. This paragraph stipulates that the Palestine refugees should be given the choice to either return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours or, those choosing not to return, be paid compensation for their property. This provision has never been implemented due to the refusal and intransigence of Israel.

Fortunately for the agency, it is presently headed by an energetic commissioner-general, Ilter Turkmen, who, from his declarations, reports and activities, shows that he has fully grasped the human and political dimensions of the Palestine problem. Of course, in his high capacity as a United Nations official, with the rank of under-secretary, Mr. Turkmen is expected to be impartial, but this does not prevent him from observing and reporting with objectivity on the tragic events which occur to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

**Duties**

Initially, by Resolution 302 (IV) mentioned above, UNRWA was given two main duties: first, to carry out, in collaboration with local governments, the direct relief and works programmes for the Palestinian refugees, and second, to consult with the interested Near Eastern governments concerning the measures to be taken by them preparatory to the time when international assistance for relief and work projects is no longer available. The resolution had also set up an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the agency. The present Advisory Commission consists of representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Japan. It should be remembered that UNRWA is to be clearly distinguished from the United

### Predictions

In his introduction to the annual report, the commissioner-general states: "It is to be hoped that the year under review will be remembered as the one in which moves began towards a settlement of the Palestine question and the broader Middle East conflict. The historic meeting in Madrid, in October 1991, attended by Israel, the Arab states and a Palestinian delegation, was followed by further meetings in Washington and discussions on a number of issues, including the refugees question, held in Ottawa in May 1992."

But the commissioner-general adds: "In sharp contrast to the optimism created by the opening of the peace talks, the situation in the occupied territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remained critical, since no significant relaxation in the traditional pattern of Israeli occupation policies occurred. In general, tension remained higher for several reasons. The lack of correlation between positive developments at the political and diplomatic levels and events affecting the daily life of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, were a cause for concern. Conditions in the refugee camps, especially in Gaza, were appalling for many of the inhabitants. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) repeatedly emphasised the need for peace negotiations at the international level to be accompanied by confidence-building measures affecting the daily life of the Palestinian in the occupied territory."

Previously, Dr. Davis has predicted the following: "Progress

more so in the occupied territories. The influx of Palestinians from Kuwait to Jordan, numbering about 300,000, has increased the agency's burdens. A great majority of them sought UNRWA's assistance in one way or another. There were about 10,000 pupils among the refugees, returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states, which the agency had to absorb in its schools by using the doubleshift system.

### Work in the occupied territories

The commissioner-general reported the following: "The Agency continued to face difficulties in operating in the occupied territory. I was concerned on numerous occasions about the safety of UNRWA staff, both area and international, who met with frequent harassment by the Israeli security forces and, from time to time, threats and attacks by some elements in the Palestinian population. The agency made repeated protests to the Israeli authorities regarding harassment of

attempted to address this problem through its income-generating and job-creation programmes. The loss of remittances which had been sent by Palestinians who had been living in Kuwait and the Gulf states caused serious financial problems for Palestinians living in the occupied territory and Jordan."

The commissioner-general added: "The agency was continuing its contacts with the government of Kuwait regarding the estimated 25,000 to 30,000 Palestinians remaining in that country."

### Financing

With regard to the financing of the agency, the commissioner-general announced to the annual Pledging Conference, held in New York on Dec. 2, 1992, that the agency has total budget requirements of some \$297 million for its core programmes in 1993 as well as needing \$14 million to continue emergency operations in Lebanon and in the occupied territories. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the states

attempted to address this problem through its income-generating and job-creation programmes. The loss of remittances which had been sent by Palestinians who had been living in Kuwait and the Gulf states caused serious financial problems for Palestinians living in the occupied territory and Jordan."

The commissioner-general appealed once more to the international community to ensure that the agency is supplied with the resources and support it must have if it is to carry out the will of the General Assembly which represents the international community.

Mr. Turkmen and his staff deserve credit for their abnegation and services rendered to the Palestine refugees and for their efforts in steering the agency under extraordianrily troubled circumstances in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The annual report was factual and unbiased and it is indeed, among other matters, an incontrovertible documentary evidence of the horribile Israeli occupation.

which normally contribute to the agency increase their contributions and those which have never contributed to it start doing so. In my opinion, there is in effect consideration for those contributions made by the world community as the agency has been since its inception an effective stabilising factor in the Middle East. I would not like to envision what would have happened in our region had not the agency functioned during its forty-two years

"Aladdin's" purpose is not to have viewers reflect on positive aspects of the Arab World, but why should this not be a possible consequence of its viewing?

In effect, the tale is a rich one of universal appeal, full of insight about human character, values and goals. Its adaptation should not demean its Arab heritage. One modern example on which Disney was able to put forth an element of Arab culture and combine it with an American saying was when the Genie suggests to Aladdin: "Wake up and smell the bammus." Combining both Arab and American cultures in a phrase is a step in the right direction. It's okay to be Arab.

The writer is media coordinator for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

## When will it be okay to be an Arab?

By Leila Gorchev

WHEN THE fabulous, centuries-old Arab folk tale of Aladdin's adventures was transformed into a Disney feature film, Americans held their breath, eager like all interested in animation and fantasy, yet wary. The unease stems from years of experience in seeing the Arab image distorted by filmmakers, cartoonists, TV series scriptwriters and news editors.

Common stereotypes have become cemented in the media industry's stockpile of "instant Arabs." These images range from a half-clad veiled flock of belly dancers making up a "harem" for their polygamous "master," to bearded terrorists in urban settings and oil-rich rulers called "sheiks" of unsavoury desert lands.

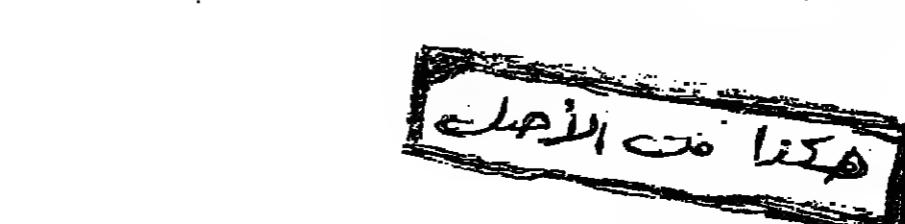
Contrary to this past tradition, Disney's "Aladdin" offered two young heroes who did not comply in character with any of the past infamous ones. Jasmine made her

own wedding decisions, the sultan complied with her desires and Aladdin had eyes for only one wife. These values were imparted to moviegoers in an unprecedented way, by Arab characters. But the question remains: What image of Arab culture emerges from the movie? And were these characters presented as Arabs to "Aladdin's" viewers at all?

In numerous films with Middle East-based plots, fictitious cities pop up in what Jack Shaefer has referred to as a "standard, sinister 'Arabland' backdrop... Into the perennial desert the producers drop a military air base or a cheap mock-up of an Arabian Nights palace." For the movie, Disney dreamt up the fictitious city of "Agrabah." Given the numerous films that have been produced and fueled by political agendas, it's often probably better when the locale remains un-

cognate. The ones with foreign (or Arab) accents are mainly conspirators, thieves, guards or the people of the street. If Disney were to be believed, one could come to the understanding that these are foreign, or specifically Arab attributes. In fact, though, "Agrabah" precludes viewers from making the association of Baghdad with admirable heroes and heroines, like Aladdin and Jasmine. Both were perfectly content with their Arab heritage in the original version of "Aladdin."

We so challenge Disney and other film companies to offer all-American heroes who demonstrate their Arab heritage with pride and subtlety, while reflecting a balance of character traits like members of all ethnic or national groups. When this precedent is set, the media may be able to let go of their cultural and political baggage. Clearly,



## Siege mentality makes Israel feel threatened from every quarter

By Fran Sikorski

Dr. Edward McDonough has experienced first-hand the place of forensic medicine in "politically-explosive human rights issues."

As Connecticut's Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, the Bethel resident vividly describes an "one-sided experience" his four-day trip to Israel. He was there to observe an autopsy on Mustafa Barakat, a Palestinian student who died suddenly while being interrogated in a West Bank jail.

Although not a member, Dr. McDonough represented Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a Boston-based organization of 2,500 American doctors, when he went to Jerusalem. He was invited after Dr. Robert Kirschner, Chicago Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, was unavailable and the assignment was given to Connecticut Chief Medical examiner Dr. Wayne Carver who couldn't go either.

"I was in the right place at the right time," says Dr. McDonough. "I was told about the assignment Aug. 5 and left Aug. 6."

Identifying PHR, Dr. McDonough, who lives with his wife Kathleen Johnson and four children, says it is "an organization which concerns itself with the medical consequences of

human rights abuses regardless of the ideology of the offending government or group."

Dr. McDonough arrived in Tel Aviv after a 9,000 mile, 10-hour flight. "I was met at the airport by members of the Palestinian Human Rights group called Al Haq and a female attorney for the family who briefed me on the family who died suddenly while being interrogated in a West Bank jail.

Although not a member, Dr. McDonough represented Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a Boston-based organization of 2,500 American doctors, when he went to Jerusalem. He was invited after Dr. Robert Kirschner, Chicago Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, was unavailable and the assignment was given to Connecticut Chief Medical examiner Dr. Wayne Carver who couldn't go either.

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Identifying PHR, Dr. McDonough, who lives with his wife Kathleen Johnson and four children, says it is "an organization which concerns itself with the medical consequences of

that although he had been troubled by several childhood allergies, Mustafa Barakat had never had an asthmatic attack before he suffered the fatal one in the prison.

Although Dr. McDonough concurred with Israel's forensic pathologist chief medical examiner Dr. Juhud Hiss that the Palestinian's death was the result of an asthma attack, he said his "gut feeling" was that the fatal attack was the result of mistreatment by his Israeli interrogators, and from being forced to wear a "foul-smelling fabric bag over his head with his hands tied behind his back during the lengthy interrogation."

Dr. Hiss conducted the autopsy and I was the independent observer. Mustafa Barakat's family wanted an autopsy because no one could remember his ever having an asthma attack.

"We also met with several Israeli officers and the meeting was conducted in Hebrew. I was shown the quarters where the student, who was to be married Aug. 8, was detained. The cell was hot with no window, and that's where the fatal asthmatic attack occurred. My report shows the student died there from an asthma attack, but you could

have an asthma attack anywhere. I concluded that the condition was brought on by the stress of being interrogated. There was no question the cause of death was asthma. The autopsy," says Dr. McDonough, "revealed the student's lungs were highly inflated like a balloon, which is a textbook example of post-mortem asthma. Mustafa Barakat died of a disease which he didn't have. He wasn't shot or tortured, nor were there any blunt blows to his body. His death was also recorded as the fifth while in custody."

The reason for being questioned was that he spent three years in Jordan and was a suspect," says Dr. McDonough whose offices are located at the University of Connecticut in Farmington.

During his stay in Jerusalem, Dr. McDonough says he was nervous, because he had "no idea what he was getting into, but the Palestinians treated me like family." The Israeli officers were cool, but certainly not unpleasant or threatening.

"The Israelis want to get rid of the Palestinians. They say 'Jinn our country or leave,' and the Palestinians want to rule their own country. The Israelis have

the attitude they will never give up Israel, so they are treating the Palestinians badly so they will leave."

"I am neither Jewish nor Palestinian, but the Israelis saw me from a threatening position. Israel sees itself under siege or almost at war, and therefore there are armed soldiers standing on every corner in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and I found it somewhat disturbing," says Dr. McDonough.

"I still have difficulty believing I had this opportunity, and it has been quite an eye opener. I have made reports and plan to give a presentation to people in my office and also to students. I will also make presentation at the national meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists in Boston in February 1993."

"Most of what I saw of Israel was from a car. It is a somewhat bleak country, with olive trees, desert and small mountains. It's like 18th century living mixed with 20th century living, says Dr. McDonough, who was anxious to return home to his family in Bethel after having "one of the most educational experiences of his life." — The Bethel Home News, Connecticut.

## Scientists warn of possible swift change in climate

By Sabine Guez

NEW YORK — Nothing is less certain than today's weather forecast for next month. Wrong! Try forecasting the weather for the next century and you'll find yourself on even more slippery ground. The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June was deluged with alarming, climate-driven environmental predictions and contradictions.

Based on the study of a rare core sample of sediments from the bottom of the ocean, two scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) near Boston, are adding a new twist: The "greenhouse warning" of the planet might lead to sudden shifts in the ocean circulation system which, in turn, could result in dramatic cooling around the North Atlantic, they report. "Our results suggest that the present climate system is very delicately poised," says scientist Scott J. Lehman, author of the new study along with Lloyd D. Keigwin, also of WHOI's Geology and Geophysics Department. "The system could snap suddenly between very different conditions with an abruptness that is scary."

The ocean "conveyor belt" circulation system that carries heat from the equator toward the poles drives climate change, according to Mr. Lehman. The two scientists have brought new evidence that the route of the warm ocean currents or Gulf Stream, which keeps northern Europe's air temperatures relatively benign, diverted many times to the south and then back northward again at the close of the Ice Age. It triggered violent climate change in as few as 40 years — next to no time in geological terms. Under the right conditions, the study shows, the circulation system could turn off again — and do so very quickly.

The findings are based on the study of skeletal remains of microscopic, shell-forming animals present in a sediment core taken from the Norwegian sea. Ocean scientists have long used these planktonic organisms, which have known temperature tolerances, as tiny thermometers for tracking water temperatures over time. This is the first ocean bottom core with rates of sediment accumulation rapid enough to document these sudden changes. The core was made available to scientists by an oil exploration firm prospecting off the coast of Norway.

"The warm Gulf Stream current also allows warm-living plankton to live at fairly high latitudes," Mr. Lehman notes. "If we look at these sediment cores and find that those plankton were absent at times in the past, we can deduce that the Gulf Stream was not penetrating as far north as it is today."

The findings indicate that the Norwegian Sea limb of the conveyor belt was periodically turned off due to injections of fresh water at the end of the last Ice Age, between 8,000 and 15,000 years ago. "We know from prior studies that 18,000 years ago, when there were large ice sheets over North America and Scandinavia, the warm surface waters went straight across the Atlantic toward Spain rather than going into the Norwegian Sea as they do today. We found that 14,500 years ago conditions became warm in the northern Atlantic. They were relatively stable for a thousand years, but suddenly switched to cold, then suddenly back to warm again."

Using a recently developed radiocarbon dating technique,

the two scientists determined the age of the planktonic skeletons present in the sediment core, data they used to precisely calculate the rates of temperature changes. "We found that these changes occurred within 40 years... They correspond to the 'harm door' swinging from its present position to its glacial position and back again to its present position," Mr. Lehman said.

In the last 8,000 years, though, relative stability has prevailed. A cooling of 0.5 to 1°C occurred in Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries during the so-called Little Ice Age, but scientists are still not sure whether the cooling responded to a change in the conveyor belt. What triggers the mode-switching behaviour of the ocean circulation system remains to be thoroughly understood. However, Mr. Lehman and Mr. Keigwin have gathered evidence for meltwater discharge preceding each conveyor-off interval. Extreme warming during deglaciation could also have increased precipitation over high latitudes

— and may do the same again as a result of greenhouse emissions — allowing saltiness to drop to levels that would shut down the conveyor.

Yet, cautions Mr. Lehman, too many uncertainties envelop the greenhouse warming phenomenon to permit hasty conclusions. "If global warming were leading to conditions that were incompatible with deep-water formation in the Norwegian Sea, you could expect very strong regional cooling. But we don't know whether it's going to take much more than some global warming to lead to those conditions," he said. The demonstrated unpredictability of climate change is a cause for concern, however. Mr. Lehman points to the chain of global atmospheric events set off last year by El Niño, a huge pool of unusually warm surface water off the west coast of South America, as yet another example of the intimate ties between the climate and ocean systems. "The ocean has a capacity to behave very abruptly

and without much warning. This to us is worrisome because most (computer) modeling studies of what is going to happen as a result of doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> (pollution gases emitted mostly by industries) are predicated on very linear, smooth changes," he says.

A better understanding of how the surface waters freshened at the close of the last Ice Age will help anticipate how the atmosphere could work again in the future, notes Mr. Lehman. But, until further light is thrown on the intricacies of the climate system, the oceanographer recommends prudence. "What I am afraid of is that the governments are going to be waiting for the scientific community to show without a doubt that global warming will have horrendous consequences. It may take 10 or 20 years for scientists to come to consensus on that issue. And if we wait until then, it may be too late to do anything about levels of greenhouse gases," he says. "By that time, CO<sub>2</sub> levels will have tripled not doubled" — World News Link.

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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## champ to run in stock car jewel

INDY (AP) — Defending Indianapolis 500 champion Al Unser Jr. will try for America's other big auto racing title the next. The 1990 IndyCar Series champion will drive a sports-prototype Chevrolet Lumina in the National Association of Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup Series race at Daytona International Speedway in Feb. 14. The premier open-wheel, single-seat open cockpit series of the States, while NASCAR is the primary circuit for stock automobiles. Dale Earnhardt, a five-time NASCAR champion who has driven against Unser numerous times in the Grand Prix of Champions series — which both have said, "little can drive any race car. If you give him a lap and some time to get the feel of the car, he'll be in front, no matter where he is." The only drivers who think the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500 are A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti. Andretti won the race in 1967, the Indy 500 in 1969 and the World Cup in 1978.

## is go back to Metrodome

(AP) — The Washington Redskins will be starting off where they finished last year's playoffs: Back home. The defending Super Bowl champions play the Vikings in the first of four National League wildcards. Kansas City is at San Diego, while Houston, Dallas and Philadelphia are in New Orleans. They will be seeking to recreate the sparkle of its 37-24 Buffalo in the 1992 Super Bowl.

## in marathon weekend ed with wheelchair race

— Disabled people from five countries with disabilities will be competing in the first ever international wheelchair race in Hong Kong, Vietnam, the Philippines and Australia.

Prasopchok, a 20-year-old electronics repairman who was born without legs, has been competing for six years. He said after the race that he hopes someday to beat the world record, which is about 21 minutes.

The wheelchair race was the first of four scheduled events, which include a 10-kilometre "fund run" Saturday, and a marathon and half-marathon Sunday. The wheelchair race was the first international event of its kind held in Vietnam.

The streets were not level, and the wheelchairs sent water and sewage spraying up from potholes, said Hoopy Koog's Woog Chi-Keung, 25.

## IA STANDINGS

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT.	GB
<b>Atlantic Division</b>				
18	12	9	.667	—
16	12	12	.571	2 1/2
13	11	11	.542	3 1/2
12	17	17	.414	7
8	17	17	.320	9
8	18	18	.308	9 1/2
8	20	20	.286	10 1/2
<b>Central Division</b>				
21	7	7	.750	—
17	12	12	.586	4 1/2
14	12	12	.538	4
14	13	13	.519	6 1/2
13	15	15	.464	8
12	15	15	.444	8 1/2
11	15	15	.423	9
<b>WESTERN CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>Midwest Division</b>				
18	8	8	.692	—
14	11	11	.560	3 1/2
14	12	12	.538	4
7	19	19	.269	11
5	19	19	.208	12
2	22	22	.083	15
<b>Pacific Division</b>				
21	4	4	.840	—
18	8	8	.692	3 1/2
17	8	8	.680	4
15	11	11	.577	6 1/2
15	12	12	.556	7
15	13	13	.536	7 1/2
10	16	16	.385	11 1/2

## GOREN BRIDGE

BAR SHARF  
AH HIRSCH  
Media Services, Inc.

## TOMMY STRIKES AGAIN

vulnerable. South quite happy to arrive in the right situation — something that could be a hit-or-miss affair with Tommy at the helm. Fortunately, North turned up with a doubleton in one of the pointed suits, so after a spade lead it looked as if the slam might succeed. There was a certain diamond loser, but if the queen of trumps could be picked up, all would be well.

Declarer won the king of spades, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. When East discarded on a trump to the ace, Tommy seemed to grow in stature. Most declarers would quickly have conceded one or two, but not our hero.

Another club ruff was followed by the ace of spades and a spade ruff. The last club was ruffed and the ace and king of diamonds were cashed, reducing all hands to three cards. Tommy had the KJ of trumps and a diamond, while West was down to three trumps.

The hint of a triumphant smile crossed Tommy's face as he exited with a diamond. West was forced to ruff, and his heart return into Tommy's major tenace meant the defender had been limited to only one trick. Amazing.

## Australia defeats S. Africa in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Nicole Provis and Wally Masur upset higher-ranked opponents Saturday and lifted Australia to victory over sixth-seeded South Africa in the first round of the \$490,000 Hopman Cup team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Provis saved a match point in the final set tie-breaker to defeat Amanda Coetzter 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) in a two-hour 45-minute opening women's singles.

Masur then cruised past out-of-touch power-server Wayne Ferreira 7-5, 6-3, in the men's singles, dropping serve only once in the match.

Provis is ranked 47th in the world — 30 places behind Coetzter — but kept her nerve in a tight struggle marked by long baseline rallies and numerous unforced errors by both players.

Masur returned serve effectively and was more consistent than Ferreira, despite being ranked 38th in the world to the South African's 11th.

A disgruntled Ferreira was given a code of conduct warning late in the match after throwing his racket into the air.

Masur's victory took him only one hour and 20 minutes. He played impressively and constantly kept the pressure on his opponent.

Unseeded Australia now will play the second-seeded Czech Republic team in the quarterfinals of the tournament, which features a unique format of men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles matches.

Top-seeded Germany, represented by Michael Stich and Steffi Graf, has a first-round bye and will meet the winner of the Ukraine-Austria contest in the quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Czech Republic team of French Open runner-up Petr Korda Cup for Spain in 1990 and is seeded third ahead of the United States team of Malivai Washington and Mary Joe Fernandez. Switzerland, which will feature Claudio Mezzadri and Manuela Maleeva-Fraguere, is only the eighth seed despite winning the 1992 Hopman Cup when it was represented by Jakob Hlasek and Maleeva-Fraguere.

The Swiss combination faces unseeded Japan later.

Nine of the 12 competing teams are represented by their top-ranked male and female players.

The tournament, sponsored by Pepsi, is being played on synthetic rebound ace courts, offers a first prize of \$105,000 and continues through Jan. 8.

It is one of a series of lead-up events before the Australian Open, which is slated for Jan. 18-31 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Jordan selected top sportsman by L'Equipe

PARIS (AP) — Basketball star Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls was selected Saturday as the "champion of champions" for 1992 by the French daily sports newspaper, L'Equipe.

In announcing the prize, awarded by a poll of L'Equipe writers, the paper acknowledged that a key to choosing Jordan was the dream team's stunning success in the Summer Olympics at Barcelona.

"The presence of all the stars on the small screen during the Games of Barcelona left traces to our memories," L'Equipe said. The paper also credited Jordan to leading the Bulls to a second consecutive NBA title.

Jordan is one of the most recognizable American athletes in France. He appears in commercials and advertisements, and his athletic exploits are well-documented on television.

Carl Lewis, the 1991 L'Equipe winner, was second to Jordan in the voting.

Third went to Nigel Mansell of Britain, who dominated the Formula One racing circuit. He won nine races on his way to the World Title, then announced he was shifting to Indycars in 1993.

Jordan's victory marked the third time in four years that L'Equipe named an American as its top sportsman. Besides Lewis last year, Greg Lemond won in 1989 after his fabulous comeback victories in the Tour De France and world championship.

Back home, local headlines that screamed "it's Atlanta" when the city was chosen as the host of the games have now been replaced by sober entries such as the recent "honeymoon is over."

Whatisit, a computer-generated shapeless blue blob, was roundly criticised by media around the world and was taken by some as an apt symbol of Atlanta's perceived inadequacy.

Atlanta, the conventional wisdom went, will come off as a hill town pretending to be a world-class city.

Whatisit, though popular with youngsters, continues to be a target of Olympic critics.

Colin Campbell, a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, recently received more than 3,000 responses from readers to his poll on the Atlanta

## Olympic-size anxiety as Atlanta looks to '96 Games

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta, that most overachieving of cities, has come down with a serious case of high anxiety over its biggest prize: The 1996 Olympics.

Once giddy over being given the opportunity to cement its coveted status as an international metropolis, the city now appears gripped with insecurity.

"As a city, we are not ready to host an event of that magnitude," said Ruby Lerner, who runs a media arts centre in Atlanta and has been a critic of the local Olympics leadership.

"Atlanta is a very young city and its achievements, given its youth, are remarkable. But it's like a kid who skips grades in school and doesn't develop all the social skills," said Lerner, executive director of the Image Film video centre.

The insecurity surfaced at the end of the successful Barcelona Games, when Atlanta accepted the Olympic torch with the introduction of the 1996 mascot, Whatisit.

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Colin Campbell, a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, recently received more than 3,000 responses from readers to his poll on the Atlanta

Olympics. When asked to describe their feelings about Whatisit, the vast majority of 300 randomly selected respondents chose "hated it" over "loved it" or "don't really care."

Asked if they feel "confident" the 1996 Olympics will come off well and Atlanta will be better off for it, Campbell said 240 of 300 answered "no."

"This is upsetting. This is alarming," Campbell said.

Lerner and others fret that Atlanta officials, desperate to make a good impression in the wake of Whatisit, may overcompensate and bury the area's unique cultural mainstays, such as folk artist Howard Finster or the varsity drive-in. "It's the quirky things, the offbeat things, that give a city its character," she said.

Some city a period of anxiety is normal for a city preparing such a mammoth event and on the verge of unprecedented world attention. They note it's still four years until 1996.

By Strob, who headed the Los Angeles Tourist Bureau when the California city hosted the Olympics, said officials in laid-back L.A. had worries of a different nature than Atlanta's as the 1984 Games approached.

"People looked at that and said, 'we didn't expect that,'" he said.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Contact an individual who is very much aware of your operation and understands how to modernize your current activities. You have a strong desire to accomplish a great deal and can do so.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look at whatever your tasks happen to be and get it in the pink of condition after which you can listen to understand any potential gripe of fellow associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your morning to make sure that your clothes and other accessories are in the right condition for the future and tonight avoid expensive pleasures.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do at home to have conditions in a better shape there and then consider the wishes of your family and do what they like.

MONSIEUR CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to be more exact in passing of correspondence in the morning and later do nothing to upset any routine of an outside ally.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Show your ability at handling whatever promises you have made in a precise fashion before you take up discussions about new obligations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about the various relationships that can be improved by a more understanding of the goals of others with whom you are associated.

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## Iran plans to join GATT

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, pressing on with a drive to join the mainstream of the world economy, plans to become a member of GATT, the main legislative and negotiating framework for international trade.

Sirous Nasseri, ambassador to the United Nations' European office in Geneva, expressed Iran's interest in joining GATT in a meeting with its Director-General Arthur Dunkel, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said quoting Tehran press reports.

"Nasseri called for GATT's cooperation to accelerate Iran's joining the agreement," it said.

Mr. Dunkel said the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would help Iran's membership bid by sending experts and holding seminars to inform Iranian organisations about GATT regulations.

Mr. Nasseri pointed to Iranian measures to "change tariffs, stop non-oil exports and create free trade and economic zones with other countries" as part of its new economic policies.

## Russia creates foreign investment agency

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has created a foreign investment agency under Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhlin to attract more Western capital as it implements free-market reforms, government officials were quoted as saying.

Kirill Ivanov, deputy head of the new Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development (Ramsir), told Izvestia newspaper the agency would coordinate investment policy between various government ministries.

"Until now each of our ministries has had its own investment policy. Such a situation is inadmissible. Therefore the main task of Ramsir is to take the lead in making sure this policy is unified," Mr. Ivanov said.

The agency would run a political risk insurance fund, a project finance centre and a technical cooperation agency, Izvestia quoted him as saying.

## Turkmens get free gas, power and water

MOSCOW (R) — Consumers in the gas-rich former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan are to receive supplies of gas, electricity and water free of charge from the new year, Commonwealth Television said.

The television, in a report Friday night, said Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov had taken the decision despite widespread opposition in the underdeveloped but resource-rich republic bordering Iran.

"The president said no one would ever make him change his mind," a television commentator said.

"Such an approach to social issues increases people's incomes in real terms instead of giving them bank notes that depreciate with the speed of light," he said.

Television said he had decided that the Central Asian state could afford to give to its own people one billion of the 80 billion cubic metres of gas extracted annually from the Kara-Kum Desert.

Despite being one of the poorest of the former 15 Soviet republics, Turkmenistan is also self-sufficient in electricity.

## Egyptian premier says 1992 was a good year for economy

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has done well economically in 1992 by cutting its debts drastically and boosting revenues by 13 per cent, Prime Minister Atef Sedki said.

In his year-end statement, he said Egypt has cut its debts from 17 countries by 50 per cent and managed to scrap military debts to the United States and Gulf states after it took part in the 1991 U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

Mr. Sedki did not give a figure for the military debts but official sources said they totalled about \$14 billion.

"In general our revenues, transfers by expatriates and official transfers in 1991/1992 reached \$19 billion against \$16.8 billion in the previous fiscal year" that ends on June 30, he told parliament.

He said the rise — from an unprecedented flood of tourists, transit tolls from the Suez Canal, transfers from expatriates and import tariffs — generated a surplus of \$5 billion in 1991/1992 compared with \$1.4 billion in 1987/1988.

He forecast the deficit to drop to four per cent in 1992/93 through an expected increase in revenues following measures to cut expenditures and boost productivity.

To combat inflation, the government has cut the state budget

deficit by financing it with real savings and by imposing credit ceilings on public and private enterprises, he said.

These measures have slashed inflation from 20.7 per cent at the end of June 1991 to only 9.7 per cent in June 1992, he said.

The value of imports also shrank from \$11.4 billion in 1990/91 to \$10.3 billion in 1991/1992 due to rising domestic production of some commodities which were imported from abroad.

He said the liberalisation of Egypt's socialist economy which began in 1991 gave the banking sector a big boost. Egypt's four state-owned banks — National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria Bank, Cairo Bank, and Misr Bank — have increased their capital by 2.9 billion pounds \$70.9 million.

Other banks have also boosted their capital due to competition in the free market and good business in 1992.

Mr. Sedki said banks capital will continue growing until they reach the international standards.

Reforms in the banking system resulted in a big increase in savings to 110 billion Egyptian pounds — 57.3 per cent in local currency and the rest in foreign currency in June 1992 from 93



Atef Sedki

Mr. Sedki said.

He said an economic reform programme, applied with the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has "decreased the deficit in the state budget to 7.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1991/1992 against 24.7 per cent in 1987/1988.

As a result, the central bank's foreign currency reserves rose from \$6.3 billion at the end of March 1991 to \$10.5 billion at the end of June 1992 with an increase of \$4.2 billion or 66.7 per cent.

## Tax reform may help Turkey narrow deficit

ANKARA (R) — A new tax reform proposal may help Turkey reduce large public deficits, the leading cause of chronic inflation, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

"New tax reform proposals, if approved by parliament, would raise tax revenues significantly in 1993 and help contain public sector deficits," the OECD said in its latest Economic Outlook.

The reform package, which will reduce tax exemption rates and widen the taxation base, is expected to come before parliament in the coming weeks, Turkish officials say.

The 24-nation OECD said it projected greater restraint on public spending and "less monetisation of public deficits is also assumed, which should help curb inflation in 1993 and 1994."

"Inflation could decelerate, but only to a little below 60 per cent by 1994," the OECD said.

It predicted consumer price inflation would be 66 per cent this year, slightly down from 68.6 per cent annually last October.

It forecast a 4.5 per cent rise in gross national product (GNP) in 1993 after an expected 5.5 per cent jump last year.

Exports, likely to be supported by a recent effective depreciation of the Turkish lira and recovery in GNP, were expected rise 5.6 per cent in 1993, slower than a projected import growth rate of 6.1 per cent.

"With a normalisation of certain revenues after the ending of Gulf-crisis-related grants, the current external account may remain in deficit by around 1.5 per cent of GNP," the OECD said.

## OECD says Italian growth could quicken by next year

ROME (R) — Italy's struggling economy could start growing faster by 1994 but correcting the country's bad financial habits would take much longer, the OECD said.

In its latest outlook, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said 1993 growth would be slow, dragged down by government belt-tightening measures.

These were introduced in a 1993 budget which Prime Minister Giuliano Amato said was intended to "pull Italy back from the brink" by saving \$3 trillion lire (\$88 billion) this year.

The reform package, which will reduce tax exemption rates and widen the taxation base, is expected to come before parliament in the coming weeks, Turkish officials say.

The 24-nation OECD said it projected greater restraint on public spending and "less monetisation of public deficits is also assumed, which should help curb inflation in 1993 and 1994."

"Inflation could decelerate, but only to a little below 60 per cent by 1994," the OECD said.

It predicted consumer price inflation would be 66 per cent this year, slightly down from 68.6 per cent annually last October.

It forecast a 4.5 per cent rise in gross national product (GNP) in 1993 after an expected 5.5 per cent jump last year.

Exports, likely to be supported by a recent effective depreciation of the Turkish lira and recovery in GNP, were expected rise 5.6 per cent in 1993, slower than a projected import growth rate of 6.1 per cent.

"With a normalisation of certain revenues after the ending of Gulf-crisis-related grants, the current external account may remain in deficit by around 1.5 per cent of GNP," the OECD said.

The Financial News, a newspaper supervised by the central People's Bank of China, said the new accounting method would bring China into line with other major countries in calculating foreign exchange reserves.

The new method does not include holdings in the Bank of China, Peking's state-operated bank for foreign exchange business, because these "cannot be used at will by the state," the Financial News said.

The old system of calculating foreign exchange did not conform to reality and was not good for making comparisons," the official newspaper said.

Peking's pile of foreign exchange reserves has grown fast as the country's export-led economic boom gathers pace.

China has also been trying to rig an array of trade laws, accounting practices and tariff rates as part of its campaign to regain admittance into the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

China's total foreign exchange reserves this year had previously been set at about \$42 billion, a jump of 47 per cent over \$28.6 billion in 1990.

The Financial News said that, under the new calculations, China's foreign exchange reserves were much lower and actually slipped between August and September.

In September, Peking had \$23.2 billion in foreign exchange reserves against about \$24.3 billion in August. The Financial News said China also had 12.7 million ounces of gold.

## Accounting change slashes China's foreign exchange reserves

PEKING (R) — China has adopted a new method for calculating foreign exchange reserves, slashing the official tally to \$23.2 billion from over \$40 billion by subtracting holdings in one state bank, an official newspaper has said.

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